



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Secretary

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

February 23, 2010

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh, Chairperson
Members of the House Environmental Matters Committee
Room 250, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, House Bill 786: State Highway Administration- Sidewalk Construction in
Priority Funding Areas

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment supports HB 786. This bill ensures funding for sidewalk construction in priority funding areas, which is conducive to the State's climate protection and air quality goals. Pedestrian- friendly development has the potential to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which results in a reduction of ozone precursors and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Reducing GHG emissions from the transportation sector is an important part of the State's plan to reduce emissions 25 percent by 2020, a target mandated by the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act of 2009.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues as you review HB 786. Please contact me at 410-260-6301 or lnissley@mde.state.md.us if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nissley

Cc: George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director, Air and Radiation Management Administration
Heather Barthel, Director, Legislation and Policy

